

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 9 are currently amended, and claims 8 and 10-16 are cancelled. Claims 17-21 have been added. The new claims do not add new material and do not require an additional search. As it stands, claims 1-7, 9, and 17-21 are currently pending in the application.

Claims 8, 9, and 11-13 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 8 and 11-13 have been cancelled, thus obviating the objection. Claim 9 has been amended to delete the objected to reference to claim 1 and is now an independent claim. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to claim 9 be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(e)

Claims 1-9 and 11-13 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Kant et al. (US 6,724,566).

As described above, claims 8 and 11-13 have been cancelled. Remaining claims 1-7 and 9 have been amended to more particularly point out and claim the invention. Claim 1 has been amended to claim an airflow guide that projects into the housing and that further comprises an elastic wall. Kant does not all of the elements of claim 1 nor of amended claim 9; specifically, Kant does not disclose an airflow guide.

In the present specification, an airflow guide is described as having multiple implementations (see generally, page 4, lines 9-page 5, line 2). All of the implementations serve to guide the fluid flow generated by the rotation of the disc stack assembly, while also reducing acoustic emissions caused by the impingement of the fluid flow on various extensions within the housing. Kant does not disclose an airflow guide of any sort, but rather a damper placed on the top pole of a voice coil assembly (see Col 6, lines 8-11). As such, Kant does not disclose all of the limitations of the independent claims 1 and 9 or their

dependents, and does not anticipate the claims under §102(e). Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Izumi et al. (US 6,008,965). The rejected claims have been cancelled, thus obviating the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC §103(a)

Claim 10 was rejected as being unpatentable over Kant in view of Izumi. Claim 10 has been cancelled, thus removing the subject matter of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1-9 and 17-21 are currently pending in the application. Based on the discussion above, Applicant submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned with any issues that may expedite the allowance of the claim.

Respectfully submitted,
Seagate Technology LLC
(Assignee of the Entire Interest)

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Date

Jennifer M. Buenzow
Jennifer M. Buenzow
Seagate Technology LLC
Intellectual Property - SHK2LG
1280 Disc Drive
Shakopee, MN 55379-1863
952-402-3436 (telephone)
952-402-2657 (facsimile)